

Education for Marginalized Children of Kenya (EMACK II)



USAID/Kenya-Derek Brown

EMACK II facilitates learning through the “Whole School Approach:” parents, other community members, and teachers talking and working together for the benefit of the children.

Together they pinpoint challenges, come up with solutions, and create and implement a school strategic plan. Challenges tackled may range from high drop-out rates to parents unable to afford fees, to school security, to how to encourage students to read.

Project Duration: November 1, 2006 to October 31, 2014

Budget

Total Budget: US\$17.8 million

Who implements EMACK II

Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) (www.akdn.org/AKF) works in partnership with NGOs, CBOs and key Ministry of Education Directorates in Kenya

What is EMACK II?

Education for Marginalized Children of Kenya (EMACK II) is an initiative of Ministry of Education (MOE) and Aga Khan Foundation made possible by the generous support of the American people through USAID. It increases opportunities for quality education for primary and lower secondary school children historically marginalized by cultural practices and poverty. EMACK focuses on improving learning outcomes and evidence-based school management reforms.

Where does EMACK II work?

EMACK II extension reaches 767 schools in 23 districts and close to half a million children in three out of eight provinces.

Provinces: Coast, North Eastern and Nairobi

Districts include: Mombasa, Kwale, Kilifi, Garissa, Wajir, Ijara, Lamu, Fafi, Malindi, Nairobi. Mombasa and Nairobi include non-formal/low cost private learning institutions.

What does EMACK II do?

EMACK works with three partner projects in each province to encourage effective learning through parental participation, promotion of local initiatives and improved quality teaching and education management. The EMACK partners in the provinces are:

- **Coast:** The Coastal Rural Support Program; The Kenya School Improvement Program; The Madrassa Resource Centre
- **North Eastern:** Habiba International, Women and Youth Affairs; Girl Kind Organization; Womankind Kenya
- **Nairobi:** Junior Achievement; Daraja Civic Initiatives Forum; Dignitas Project.

EMACK

- Works with communities to train school management communities
- Works closely with local NGOs, private sector and the government to build and strengthen partnerships for education
- Works with Koranic schools to introduce literacy and numeracy
- Improves the teachers' skills, focusing on the needs of students from marginalized populations (i.e., pastoralists, girls, orphans and vulnerable children).
- Includes a cross-cutting initiative for education on HIV/AIDS.
- Enhances the participation of people with disabilities
- Tests, replicates and shares innovative strategies and approaches for better education policies.



EMACK trains rural teachers to develop low and no cost instructional materials

How is EMACK II making a difference?

Nearly 425,000 people directly benefit, including 400,000 pupils (215,426 boys and 183,706 girls); 4,000 teachers, 11,000 orphans and vulnerable children (OVC).

Training for teachers and managers

- Strengthens the skills of approximately 4,000 teachers, especially helping them work with students from marginalized populations (e.g. pastoralists, orphans and other vulnerable children, especially girls). Teachers learn to create low-cost materials like posters and charts, and engage children in active learning.
- Trains over 10,500 School Management Committee (SMC) members to design and implement school development plans, based on schooling data. EMACK also trains Provincial Directors of Education, District and Municipal Education Officers, and other education managers and officials.

New ways of schooling

- Introduced the Whole School Approach, which increases community buy-in and involvement in education. By the end of 2010, over 21,000 parents and teachers had participated in the approach's exercises: 313 schools had created three-year School Development Plans to improve educational quality.
- EMACK works with Madrasa teachers, so that along with Islamic instruction, they also prepare children for primary education.
- EMACK II has supported 179 children (85 girls) from pastoralist communities in three mobile schools and five "alternative" literacy programs. EMACK encourages nomadic children to enrol in these schools, then transition to full primary schools at Class Four.

Infrastructure

- Constructed classrooms and latrines to ease the problem of overcrowding and hygiene and sanitation, respectively.

Supporting students

- EMACK helps children from marginalized areas get to school and learn. EMACK participants include marginalized Muslim children in 767 schools in both Coast and North Eastern Provinces.
- Trains teachers to offer psychosocial support to orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs). Provides material support such as uniforms and school bags, thereby boosting the morale of these children and encouraging their attendance.
- Established "Girls Forums" and "Health Clubs" to empower primary school students and make them aware both of the environment and of their rights.
- Girls have been provided with "emergency kits" which include sanitary towels, underwear, sewing kit, soap, towel, pain killers and khangas/wrap-arounds-- leading to improvements in girls' attendance, retention and performance.

Contact Information

Erna Kerst	Dwayne Lee
Mission	Director
Director	Education and Youth

USAID/Kenya
P.O. Box 629
00621, Nairobi
Kenya: Tel: 254-20-862-2000